



DR. BETH WEINSTOCK CO-FOUNDER - BIRDIELIGHT

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ON THE WEB

www.uarotary.org

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For make up locations, check the club web site or call the make-up hotline at (614) 470-1002.



Rich Simpson introduced **Dr. Beth Weinstock**, Co-Founder of BirdieLight.

Beth is a University of Michigan graduate and a graduate of Ohio State's College of Medicine.

BirdieLight's mission is to inform and educate young people about the danger of unintended fentanyl ingestion.

The motivation for starting BirdieLight was the death of Beth's son Eli in March, 2021. Eli was a sophomore at American University in Washington D.C. He unknowingly ingested a lethal dose of fentanyl and passed away within an hour.

BirdieLight is here to save lives and is focused on young people ages 15 to 25. Beth asked rhetorically how many of us may have made bad decisions when we were in that age range. Of course, the answer is that everyone in that group has made questionable choices at some point. Today, however, poor choices can be much more dangerous than in the past.

In 2022 108,000 Americans died from illegal drugs. Fentanyl was the culprit in 80 percent of those deaths. Sadly, most of those who fell victim had no idea that they were ingesting the drug. Some folks choose to refer to those deaths as poisonings. Some call them murder. Calling them murder may not be appropriate since, in many cases, the seller of the pill or powder may not even know that fentanyl is present.

To put the death toll in perspective Dr. Weinstock noted that 42,000 people died per year at the height of the HIV crisis. Fentanyl poisoning is the leading cause of death for American youth – thus the focus on that age group by BirdieLight.

While the focus is on high school and college students, BirdieLight also seeks to connect with people who are in a position to teach those students.

The country needs a focused, national effort to inform and educate people about the fentanyl crisis. Beth noted that the Federal government sent information about HIV to every mailing address in the country at the onset of that crisis. Further, she pointed out how effective the campaign against drunk driving mounted by MADD changed the culture about that issue. A similar nationwide effort is in order today to address the current crisis.

BirdieLight addresses the fentanyl issue with students in the "middle" ground – between first time users and those who are regular users/abusers. Surveys show that about 50 percent of students are aware that fentanyl may be present in pills. Also, 50 percent are aware of that possibility in cocaine. Cocaine is not a drug of the past. It is wildly popular now on campuses – and 18 percent of it contains fentanyl.

Fentanyl is a synthetic drug that is manufactured using readily available chemicals. Its use is legal in the United States in a hospital setting. In that setting, controlled doses are measured in micrograms. Outside the medical system, doses are typically found to be measured in milligrams – one thousand times stronger than those found in the hospital.

While fentanyl first showed up in heroin in 2010 it is now found in counterfeit pills posing as things like Xanax, oxycodone and Adderall. It also shows up now in cocaine, methamphetamine and heroin.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view this meeting and all previously recorded Rotary meetings

GREETERS

January 31

Kelly Marlow
Tim Irwin

February 7

Joe Valentino
Ali Carine

February 14

Bill Hosket
Jessica Grisez

REGISTRATION DESK

January 31

J.D. Dickerson
Jim Nicklaus

February 7

Dick Stone
Janine Hummer

February 14

Kevin Brown
Brian Hall

CALENDAR

January 31 - Scioto CC/Zoom

Price Finley, District Governor –
Rotary District 6690

Host: Milt Lustnauer

February 7 - Scioto CC/Zoom

TBA

February 14 - Scioto CC/Zoom

Herb Gillen -The Columbus
Air Show

Host: Angela Lanctot

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event reminder to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

OUR NEXT MEETING

JANUARY 31ST

Scioto Country Club/Zoom

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



DR. BETH WEINSTOCK

CO-FOUNDER - BIRDIELIGHT

We saw photos of counterfeit oxycodone, Xanax and Adderall tablets which looked like legitimate tablets. Such fakes are sold on social media as the real thing and, in some cases, the dealers have no idea they are selling a poisonous product.

BirdieLight works to make people aware of tools available to help avoid fentanyl. Test strips are now becoming available through health departments and other sources. In various locales efforts are underway to make sure they are readily available in convenient places for targeted groups.

A second tool is Naloxone (Narcan) which reverses the effects of fentanyl if administered within a few minutes of a person going down. Narcan is available without a prescription.

Beth closed with four points in a message to young people.

- In 2023, don't try anything since you are aware of the grave danger.
- Always test drugs from any source other than a physician or pharmacy.
- Never use anything while you are alone.
- Always know where the Narcan is.



BIRDIELIGHT PRESENTATION

Beth's presentation today had a lot of important information in her PowerPoint and there were requests to share it with our membership. [Click here](#) to view PowerPoint presentation

THE MEETING



President **Milt Lustnauer** opened the meeting and asked **Tim Kellogg** to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

We greeted visiting Rotarian **Jon Jaynes** from the Dublin/Worthington club.

Milt reminded us about the upcoming January 26 social event – 5:00 to 6:30 PM at Sow Plated on Lane Avenue. It's an opportunity to meet and get to know newer members.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



John Huneck announced the resumption of meal service at the YWCA Family Center. During the month of February members of our Interact Club will cover the available dates. Beginning in March UA Rotary members will be asked to step in. There is a new limit of six volunteers each evening. More details to follow.

Dave Dewey alerted us to possible upcoming club activity in concert with Rotary International's Peace Project. UA Schools, Grandview Schools and the city of Upper Arlington are in the loop about a possible Peace Pole project at the schools and in the city. Stay tuned for more details.

Alan Yarletts and **John Huneck** mutually shared the news of the birth of a new grandchild into their family.

